

THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

MEDICAL PROGRESS.

The Medical Association of the State of Missouri.—In pursuance of a call from the "St. Louis Medical Society," the physicians of the State met in Convention to organize a State Association, on the 4th Nov., at 12 o'clock M. One hundred and fifty-one delegates (one hundred and six from St. Louis, and forty-five from the country) assembled in the 1st Presbyterian church, St. Louis.

The Convention was temporarily organized by calling Dr. Geo. Penn, of St. Louis, to the chair as President; and Dr. Wright, of Warren county, and Dr. Thomas, of Boonville, as Vice-Presidents; and Dr. Washington, of St. Louis, and Dr. A. M. Davidson, of Jefferson City, as Secretaries.

A committee of three from each congressional district was appointed to select permanent officers for the Association.

The Convention now adjourned to meet at 7 o'clock P. M.

Evening Session.—At 7 o'clock P. M., the Convention met. The Constitution, as adopted, we have published in the present number of our journal.

A committee of three from each congressional district was appointed to select permanent officers for the Association.

The committee reported the following names, which were severally elected:

President.—Dr. F. W. G. Thomas, of Boonville.

Vice-Presidents.—Dr. John Barnes, of St. Louis; Dr. B. D. Coalter, of Pike county; Dr. H. F. Hughes, of Lewis county; Dr. Joseph Wood, of Clay county; and Dr. J. F. Atkinson, of Lexington.

Secretaries.—Dr. J. B. S. Alleyne, of St. Louis; and Dr. H. C. Wright, of Warren county.

Treasurer.—Dr. Geo. Johnston, of St. Louis.

The Association now adjourned to 10 o'clock A. M., the 5th inst.

Nov. 5th, 10 o'clock A. M.

The Convention being called to order, Dr. Coalter, chairman of the committee on nominations, reported the standing committees, which were received and severally adopted.

Boonville was fixed upon for the next meeting of the Association—the third Monday in April, 1851.

Published Monthly by LEA & BLANCHARD, Philadelphia, at One Dollar a-year, and sent GRATUITOUSLY to all subscribers of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, who remit the Annual Subscription, Five Dollars, in advance.

In no case will this work be sent unless the money is paid in advance.
This should pay postage as one newspaper,

VOL. IX.—1

Afternoon Session.—Dr. Pallen introduced the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to memorialize the Legislature of the State of Missouri to alter the laws of the State so that physicians may be required, in suit, to prove only the fact of general attendance on patients, and not the items.

Dr. J. B. Johnson introduced the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted:—

Whereas, By enactment of the Legislature of the State of Mo., passed Feb. 6, 1847, under the head of an "Act to sustain the credit of the State," it was *Resolved*, That every person, or co-partnership of persons, in the State of Missouri, who shall follow the practice of medicine as a livelihood, in whole or in part, is hereby declared a physician; therefore,

Resolved, That this Association regard said interference, in pronouncing upon the qualifications of physicians, uncalled for, and unjust to the medical profession, who are supposed to be the best judges of its own fellows and their abilities.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by this Association to memorialize the next Legislature for the repeal of said enactment.

Dr. McPheeers introduced the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended by this Association to the physicians in each county in the State of Missouri to form themselves into county district societies, to be auxiliary to this Association; and that a committee of three be appointed to address the profession, in each county, on this subject.

Dr. Coons moved the adoption of the following preamble and resolutions:—

Whereas, Druggists throughout the State, and particularly in the city of St. Louis, are in the daily habit of prescribing for, and administering medicines to, individuals who choose to consult them—therefore,

Resolved, That the business of the Apothecary is to provide himself with the purest drugs, and to compound them according to prescribed formulae.

Resolved, That the apothecary has no just right to interfere with what strictly belongs to the physician.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by this Association to address a

circular to all apothecaries throughout the State on this subject.

Resolved, That the profession, generally, are earnestly requested to withhold their support from druggists who persist in the reprehensible practice of prescribing for diseases.

After several amendments by Drs. G. Johnson and Mosea, and others, the foregoing resolutions were indefinitely postponed. We submit them to the profession to say whether they involved any principle which made it necessary for the Missouri Medical Association to assign them to the tomb of the Capulets.

Dr. McPheeers offered a resolution to petition the Legislature on the subject of the Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths; which was adopted.

Dr. Prince moved that this Association petition the Legislature to appoint an inspector of drugs and medicines for the city of St. Louis; which was adopted.

Dr. Reyburn moved the following resolutions, which were adopted:—

Resolved, That a special sub-committee, consisting of one physician from each county in the State, be appointed by the chairman of the committee on indigenous botany and domestic adulteration of drugs, whose duty shall be to aid said committee in their labours, and especially to note and report all the facts coming to their knowledge that may have reference to the adulteration of drugs, medicines, chemicals, &c., within the State.

Resolved, That the Standing Committee on the domestic adulteration of drugs, medicines, &c., be instructed to urge upon our State Legislature the necessity of passing such laws as will protect the community of the State against the frauds practiced in the sale and disposition of impure medicines, &c.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association, the wilful sophistication or sale of medicines, knowing them to be impure, is criminal and should be punished as such.

Dr. Coons moved that this Association approve of the six months' term of medical lectures as adopted by the American Medical Association.

Dr. J. B. Johnson moved its reference to the committee on medical education; but upon a motion by Dr. H. Hughes, and seconded by Dr. McPheeers, the resolution was indefinitely postponed.

We cannot, however, believe that the

members of the Association were prepared to act so summarily on a subject so deeply involving the tone of the profession in Missouri. On the contrary, from our intimate knowledge with many medical gentlemen through the State, we believe they are now prepared, and will at the next meeting of the Association, sustain the six months' term of lectures.

Dr. Edgar moved that the profession generally discourage young men from embarking in the medical profession unless they have a liberal course of preparatory education—adopted.

The Association adjourned to 10 o'clock A. M., the next morning.

Nov. 6th, 10 o'clock A. M.

Dr. Vaughn moved that a committee be appointed to memorialize the Legislature to procure the establishment of a vaccine agency for the State—adopted.

After some unimportant business, the Association resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the state of medicine through the State of Missouri.

Dr. Morris proposed the subject of epidemic erysipelas for discussion, which was adopted. Drs. Bland, Jones, Childs, McDowell, Johnson, and others, participated in the discussion. The committee rose and reported progress, and the Association adjourned to 3 o'clock P. M.

Afternoon Session.—Dr S. Pollak moved that the State Medical Association petition the Legislature to provide for the education of the blind, deaf, and dumb of the State.

On motion, the Association adjourned *sine die*.

MEDICAL NEWS.

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

Inspector of Drugs.—The Committee of the Philadelphia College of Physicians, appointed to report what action it is proper and expedient for this College to take in reference to a communication from the College of Pharmacy, on the subject of the Inspector of Drugs for the Port of Philadelphia, reported: That, in their opinion, it would best comport with the dignity of the College of Physicians to present to the Secretary of the Treasury a separate memorial, urging upon him, in the strongest terms, the im-

portance, before making the appointment of Inspector of Drugs, to inquire closely into the entire competency of the candidate to fulfil, in a satisfactory manner, the duties of the office; pointing out, at the same time, in the memorial, the nature and extent of these duties; the necessity, in consequence of the important public and private interests involved, of their strict and faithful fulfilment, and the utter impossibility of this being accomplished by any one who is not theoretically and practically conversant with all that knowledge which must be brought into requisition in forming his decision as to the qualities and true value of the drugs and chemicals submitted to his examination. Thus, while omitting any direct allusion to the incapacity of the present Inspector of Drugs for this Port, furnishing to the Secretary of the Treasury the views of this College as a guide to him and his successors in making the appointment. In conclusion, the Committee offered the following resolution:—

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare a memorial in accordance with the foregoing suggestions, to be signed by the President of the College, and forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The said resolution was adopted, and Drs. Condie, Cargon, and Parrish were appointed the Committee.

Memorial of Philadelphia College of Physicians in relation to Inspector of Drugs.—The following memorial, reported in accordance with the above resolution, has been adopted by the College.

The Memorial of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States,

Respectfully represents:

That the office of Inspector of Drugs for the Port of Philadelphia is one, the duties of which involve the most important public and private interests, affecting the lives and health of the citizens.

Being strictly a professional office, it requires, for the proper fulfilment of its duties, high professional as well as moral qualifications; and this College would therefore most respectfully urge upon the Secretary of the Treasury the appointment of no person as Inspector of Drugs, unless he shall be found thoroughly acquainted with Chemistry and Pharmacy, and practically conversant with

the nature and physical properties of drugs and chemicals, and with the means for detecting their impurity and sophistication.

The Fellows of the College, from their position and pursuits, are fully aware of the great importance of the proper inspection of drugs, having frequently witnessed the evil effects arising from their adulteration and sophistication; and they have therefore deemed it their duty to address you upon this subject, not with a view of recommending any individual, or of subserving the interests of any political party, but solely to direct your attention to the qualifications which they deem essential to the proper exercise of this responsible office, and to the faithful carrying out of the object contemplated by the act of Congress—to prevent the importation of adulterated and spurious drugs and medicines.

Foreign Body in the Trachea.—In July last, Mr. J. A. Dobie, of Hanover, N. H., while making an application to his throat by means of a sponge, lost his hold upon it and drew it into his trachea. It could be perceived that the sponge moved from the bifurcation of the bronchi to the larynx. The dyspnoea, at times excessive, occasionally disappeared entirely. Tracheotomy was performed by Prof. Dixi Crosby, and the sponge removed. The patient died within forty-eight hours after the operation. The sponge is described as being about two inches long by one wide, and about half an inch in thickness—a size which we should have supposed would entirely preclude its passing through a healthy larynx (and such the patient's is said to have been), or, after reaching the trachea, would have prevented it from moving.—*New Hampshire Journ. of Med.*, Oct. 1850.

Another new Medical Journal.—We have received from Dr. P. CLAIRBORNE GOOCH, of Richmond, Va., the prospectus of a medical journal, the first number of which he proposes to issue on the 1st of Jan. 1851. It is to appear monthly, each number to contain sixty-four pages; the price to be three dollars a-year.

Wills' Hospital.—A Course of Lectures on the Anatomy, Physiology, and Diseases of the Eye will be given at this Institution by Drs. Parrish and Neill, Attending Surgeons.

The instruction will be of a practical character, and the number of pupils will be limited to twenty-five.

During the months of December, January, February, and March, the lectures will be given upon Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Fee for the Course, \$5.

Dartmouth College.—At a commencement held Nov. 6th, the degree of M. D. was conferred upon nine students.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

On the Epidemic Cerebro-spinal Meningitis observed at Val-de-Grâce 1848-1849. By Dr. Michel Levy, Chief Physician.—This epidemic has manifested so fatal a predilection for the French army that there is scarcely one important garrison that has not suffered from its ravages. Paris, which had before escaped, has become the seat of its influence during the last sixteen months. The first case appeared in the military hospital at Val-de-Grâce in December, 1847; from this date to February, 1849, a period of fifteen months, ninety-nine cases were presented.

The following table indicates the progress of the disease and the rate of mortality:—

1847. Dec.	1 case	1 death
1848. 1st qr.	12 cases	6 deaths
" 2d qr.	26 "	12 "
" 3d qr.	12 "	5 "
" 4th qr.	23 "	12 "
1849. Jan.	11 "	9 "
" Feb.	14 "	13 "

Dr. Levy then refers to the epidemic constitution of the previous year in relation to the prevalence of this cerebro-spinal meningitis.

From the statistics of the cases admitted into Val-de-Grâce, it appears that of six thousand four hundred and ninety-eight patients received from Jan. to Dec. 31st, 1848, there were only ninety-eight cases of meningitis; that, during the third quarter, when the number of admissions was at its maximum, there were only twelve cases of meningitis; that not only did the ordinary pathological features of the year manifest themselves in the increase of the affection of the respiratory and digestive organs during the winter months, but that other epidemics of greater intensity prevailed

simultaneously; such as typhus fever, dysentery, variola, measles and scarlatina. The meningitis now under consideration cannot, therefore, be regarded as a true epidemic, because it has neither attacked a large number of individuals, nor are its attacks limited to a restricted period; neither have they modified the characters of other epidemic diseases. It has been known occasionally at Val-de-Grâce for many years, but has increased in frequency since the close of 1847, and has not prevailed in other hospitals. The constitution of 1848 was seen in the tendency to miasmatic and infectious diseases marked by a typhoid and adynamic character. Dr. Levy assigns the origin of the diseases of this year to a prevalent morbid condition of the blood.

It must be observed that this meningitis appeared between, and was to a certain extent merged in or complicated with, the influenza of 1847, and the cholera of 1849.

Mortality.—Of the ninety-nine cases received into the Val-de-Grâce, fifty-eight died; a proportion of 1 in 170. The mortality greatly declined towards the close of 1848, but rose again greatly in Jan. and Feb. 1849.

Of fifty-three deaths, thirty-eight occurred between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five years; and only fifteen between those of twenty-five and thirty-one years. The young men recently incorporated with their regiments furnished the greater portion of the fatal cases. This may in part be attributable to the excitement of novel duties, exercises, &c.; and in part to the irregularities and political excitement of their preceding life.

Precursory symptoms.—In twelve cases out of fifty-seven, the attack was sudden, but in general the following precursory symptoms were observed: headache, vertigo, lassitude, horripilations, tremors, general malaise, nausea, and vomiting.

Symptoms.—In most cases there was intense and intolerable frontal headache. Pain in the course of the spine, for the most part in the lumbar region, was produced by movement or the slightest pressure, and in some instances existed without being so excited. Pains in the limbs were constant symptoms. Rigors occurred during the convalescent stage, or when the disease was verging into a chronic state. At this period, a state of torpor, or general languor and debility, somewhat analogous to a cer-

tain stage of cholera, would frequently supervene. Impairment of the senses of sight and hearing not unfrequently remained after the attack. Rigidity of the spinal muscles of the cervical and dorsal regions existed in the majority of instances. Trismus, opisthotonus, pleuristhotonus, strabismus, contraction of the limbs, and tetanic spasms, were occasionally met with. In some instances delirium accompanied the early symptoms, and was followed by coma. Vomiting was a frequent symptom; constipation was constantly observed, and extremely difficult to overcome. The tongue was generally normal at first, then becoming whitish, passed through several shades till it presented a typhoid aspect. In twenty-six cases, a peculiar pearly appearance of the gums was noticed. Anorexia was constant. The pulse throughout the disease was hard and sharp, and varied in number from 60 to 120, in individual cases. The face in many cases was florid. The blood in most instances was cupped, when drawn at the commencement of the disease, and generally exhibited an excess of fibrine. Respiration was hurried; the forehead hot, the surface of the trunk was warm, the extremities cold. During return to health, it was not easy to maintain the warmth of the body. In twenty-eight cases, various cutaneous eruptions, e. g., erythema, erysipelas, petechiae, sudamina, herpes, rubecloid spots, &c., were met with.

The complications were for the most part of a typhoid or choleric character.

Course of the disease.—Distinct stages were not observed. The disease was usually ushered in by smart febrile symptoms accompanied with delirium, in some cases alternately with coma. The cases varied according to the predominance of any certain set of symptoms. The nearest division that could be made was that of complete and incomplete meningitis. In some cases, only headache, cervical rigidity, vomiting, and constipation, were observed until febrile reaction changed or developed the full characters. In other cases, the entire characteristic symptoms were rapidly developed. The epithet "typhoid" was applied to those cases in which a state of torpor analogous to the collapse of cholera occurred.

For all practical purposes, the epidemic meningitis may be divided into the three forms of congestive, purulent, and hydrcephalic; the first form being that of the

sudden seizures and rapid cures occasionally met with. Under either form, when the course of the disease was prolonged, it manifested remissions in the symptoms, and even a periodicity, giving an intermittent character.

The course of the disease seemed, in some cases, to be cut short by an increased discharge of urine. The urine did not contain albumen, but a considerable quantity of uric acid and urates was noticed when the critical discharge occurred. In a few cases, profuse perspiration preceded a favourable termination. Hemorrhage and diarrhoea exerted no favourable influence on the course of the disease.

The duration of the disease varied from eight to sixty days.

In ten cases, the period of the disease was from thirty to one hundred and fifty-one days, convalescence having been interrupted by pleurisy in one case, by obstinate headache, irregular or periodic, in four cases, twice by typhoid symptoms, once by deafness, and twice by persistent vomiting.

Pathological anatomy.—Dr. Levy's observations under this head are deduced from forty-four autopsies.

In fifteen there were noticed fulness of the vessels, injection of the pia mater, and sanguineous extravasation into the arachnoid.

In nine cases there was a marked abundance of bloody points in the cut cerebral surface.

In five, injections of the ventricular surfaces.

In twenty-seven, purulent effusion on the convexity and at the base of the brain.

In twenty-seven, purulent effusion, situated almost exclusively on the posterior surface of the spinal cord; eight times on both anterior and posterior aspect, and four times it extended to the *cauda equina*.

In eighteen cases there was effusion of serum and lymph into the cavities of the ventricles.

In eleven instances thoracic disease was found; viz., two, pneumonia; nine, pulmonary congestion; one, sero-purulent effusion into the pericardium.

In the latter case inflammation of the joints co-existed.

Treatment and results.—Of sixty cases noted, thirty-one deaths occurred from the natural course of the disease; seven from hydrencephalic disease: twelve were completely cured; and ten incompletely cured.

The means generally employed were venesection, leeching, cupping, blistering, and calomel.

Conclusions.—1. The cerebro-spinal meningitis which has presented itself at Val-de-Grâce during 1848-49, is identical with that which has been observed at Versailles, Strasbourg, Metz, &c.

2. It has prevailed concurrently with typhoid fever, but is otherwise distinct in its symptoms, course, lesions, and mortality.

3. It has not assumed a true epidemic character; at the time that it has prevailed, typhoid and other eruptive fevers have been met with in considerable numbers.

4. It has not been developed under the miasmatic conditions which give rise to periodic fevers.

5. With the exception of one or two cases of sudden seizure, the pathological lesions have generally borne a close relation to the symptoms, which they have thrown light upon; and this is not a feature in typhoid disease.

6. The rapid and extensive formation of pus is amongst its most constant and remarkable lesions.

7. The tendency to the formation of pus is the generic feature of a class of affections in which the blood becomes diseased, and is also a part of this cephalo-rachidian meningitis. The special tendency to the deposition of pus in the cerebro-spinal axis constitutes its specific character.

8. The medical constitution of 1847-48 explains the prevalence of this class of diseases.

9. By the demonstration of the non-identity of this cerebro-spinal meningitis with typhus, its non-identity with typhoid fever is also demonstrated.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Oct. 1850, from *Gazette Médicale de Paris*, Oct. 4, 1850.

A new Property of Chloroform.—M. AUGEND, of Constantinople, transmitted to the Academy of Sciences a memoir, in which he pointed out a property that places a very distinct line of demarcation between chloroform and ether; this is, its power of disinfecting organic matters. M. Augend related the following experiment:—

Take three wide-mouthed flasks, the first containing a few drops of ether, the second a few drops of chloroform, the third left empty. If in each of these a piece of beef be placed, and the flasks be closed

and left undisturbed in the summer season, the following circumstances will be observed : The meat, which was of a reddish-brown colour in its natural state, changed instantly to a vermillion-red in the mixture of chloroform and air, while in the ether vapour no change occurred. At the end of a week the difference was greater still ; the meat in the flask containing atmospheric air was but little changed in its aspect ; that in chloroform had acquired the appearance of boiled meat. On opening the flasks it was found that the meat, both in the atmospheric air and in the ether vapour, was putrefied, and emitted a most offensive odour ; while that in the mixture of chloroform and air had the sweetish taste and odour of chloroform.

M. Augend has ascertained that 1-200th of chloroform completely prevents the putrefaction of fresh meat. The most apparent action of the chloroform is in the rapidity with which it traverses the thickest tissues, and causes an immediate contraction of their parenchyma, with consequent exudation of the fluids of the structure experimented upon. The author further dwelt upon the value, in a medico-legal point of view, that chloroform thus possesses in arresting putrefaction.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Nov. 1850.

Discovery of the Magnetic Properties of Oxygen Gas.—At the last monthly meeting of the Royal Institution, Mr. FARADAY announced to the members present his discovery (the subject of a paper sent in to the Royal Society), that oxygen is magnetic, that this property of the gas is effected by heat, and he believes the diurnal variation of the magnetic needle to be due to the action of solar heat on this newly-discovered characteristic of oxygen—the important constituent of the atmosphere. We do not mean to give the above as the terms of Faraday's announcement, or as the exact facts of the conclusions drawn from his last experimental researches, but only as a foreshadowing of the new results and views of one of our most eminent British philosophers. We must add, however, that Becquerel also has recently directed attention to a somewhat similar conclusion ; he communicated to the Academy of Sciences at Paris that oxygen is magnetic in relation to the other gases, as iron is to the rest of the metals, and inferred that it is probable or possible (we have not the paper by us to refer to) that the diurnal

variation may be connected with this property of oxygen.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Nov. 1850.

Foreign Body in the Air-Passages.—Dr. RENDU, of Compeigne, has transmitted to the Academy of Medicine the following case. On the 8th of May, 1848, a child five years of age, having a haricot bean in his mouth, suddenly uttered a cry, and was attacked with a fit of suffocation. This attack recurred frequently until the fifth day, when M. Rendu determined upon performing tracheotomy. The operation having been performed the suffocation ceased, but the foreign body was not expelled, although the incision was kept open for some time. It was then left to itself, and healed by the fifteenth day ; after this time the attack of suffocation reappeared, but less severely. Three months afterwards, the bean was expelled in a violent fit of coughing. The attacks of suffocation ceased, but a cough with purulent expectoration followed. This gradually disappeared ; and in September of the present year, two and a half years after the accident, the child is in a perfectly good state of health.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Nov. 1850.

Chemical Tests of Cerebral Matter.—M. LASSAIGNE informed the Academy that, on repeating Orfila's interesting experiments, he had been unable to add one more to the chemical characters of cerebral matter indicated by Orfila—viz., the formation of phosphoric acid by the calcination of cerebral substance in the air.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Oct. 4, 1850.

Case in which a Silk Handkerchief was swallowed by a boy aged nine years.—The following remarkable case is related by C. R. BREE, Esq., in the *Provincial Medical and Surg. Journ.* Nov. 13th, 1850.—A. P., aged 9, who is labouring under disease of the brain, producing frequent epileptic seizures and aberration of intellect, swallowed on Sunday, September 1st, a silk handkerchief, of light texture, such as are worn round the neck of children. It was nearly a foot square. The parents missed the handkerchief and suspected that he had swallowed it, as they had detected him in the habit of thus disposing of various other things on previous occasions. He complained of pain, and did not sleep on Sunday night. As to Monday

night, he fell asleep at nine o'clock, and did not awake until seven the following morning; and immediately after he had a motion, and with it the silk handkerchief, with the exception of slight discolourment, as perfect as before its strange journey. The child's bowels have been relaxed since, but otherwise it is none the worse for its dose.

Treatment of Chorea by Frictions with Chloroform.—M. GASSIER has published three cases of chorea cured by the topical application of chloroform.

The first was that of a child, seven years of age, in whom the disease was caused by fright. A liniment composed of equal parts of chloroform and oil of sweet almonds was rubbed, night and morning, along the course of the spine. From its first employment the violence of the muscular movements was moderated, and in six days the patient was cured.

The second case was that of a boy, twelve years of age, in whom the disease had appeared two months before as the effect of fright. The spasmodic movements were so violent that he could hold nothing in his hands, nor walk without help. At the end of a fortnight, under chloroform frictions, the disease had disappeared. A relapse, however, occurred, which was cured in two days by a return to the same means.

In a third case, of five months' standing, the result also of fright, the symptoms disappeared in seven days under chloroform frictions.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Nov. 1850, from *L'Union Médicale*, Oct. 31, 1850.

Consequences of Tracheotomy.—M. GUERSANT related to the Surgical Society of Paris (Jan. 16, 1850) a case in which, after the operation of tracheotomy in croup, during deglutition alimentary matters were rejected by the aperture in the trachea. M. Guersant had met with this accident in many instances, and attributed it to a defective action of the epiglottis. He had the notes of forty operations of tracheotomy in croup; of these six were cured, and a seventh lived eleven days after the operation.

M. MICHON attributed the circumstance mentioned by M. Guersant to the changes produced in the mucous membrane, muscles, and cartilages of the pharynx, by the inflammation, by which the complete occlusion of the glottis is interfered with.

M. DEGUINNE (junior) concurred in the

opinion of M. Michon, and observed that he had himself met with the same effect, which disappeared as the inflammation subsided.

A short discussion took place on M. Dupuytren's opinions of the effects of enlarged tonsils in the causation of disease.

M. GUERSANT continued his observations on the results of tracheotomy in croup, the failure of which he attributed principally to two causes—1. To the debilitation of the patient by early treatment; 2. To the want of sufficient care, subsequently to the operation, to prevent the admission of cold air and foreign bodies into the trachea.

M. FORGET inquired if M. Guersant could indicate the precise period at which recourse should be had to the operation.

M. GUERSANT answered that if a rational and energetic, but *not antiphlogistic*, treatment had been adopted without relief, the operation should be resorted to.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.*, Feb. 1, 1850.

Use of Chloride of Sodium in Ague.—M. PIORRY stated to the Academy that among the various remedies he had investigated as substitutes for cinchona, he had found none exert so decided an influence on enlargements of the spleen as chloride of sodium. This influence had been witnessed in eight cases. In several instances two doses had sufficed to reduce the spleen to its normal dimensions.—*Ibid.*

Ligation of the common Iliac Artery.—M. CHASSAGNAC stated to the Academy of Sciences that he had recently performed the operation of tying the common iliac artery in a man forty-nine years of age, from the inner aspect of whose thigh he had to remove a cancerous tumour, which penetrated the pelvis by the obturator foramen. The object of tying the common iliac artery was to prevent the fatal hemorrhage which would inevitably have attended the complete removal of the tumour. This was effected with very slight loss of blood, notwithstanding that several branches of the internal iliac and profunda arteries were divided. The patient, however, died on the following day. M. Chassagnac regarded the operation as perfectly successful, so far as the ligation of the common iliac artery was concerned, and added that according to the best surgical works this operation has not before been practiced in France.—*Ibid.*